

**Citizen's Coordinating Council
Pittsfield High School
December 3, 1998
Meeting Highlights**

Prepared by the Massachusetts Office of Dispute Resolution.

Participants: 37 members of the CCC were present. There were 6 people in the audience.

Agenda: Proposed agenda reviewed and agreed upon by all.

Introductions: All introduced themselves. Jane noted that name plates will be made for each Council member.

CCC membership: All felt comfortable with representation on council but wanted to add a health professional. It was noted that the Mayor of Pittsfield may have someone in mind.

Purpose of Council and operating guidelines: Draft purpose statement and operating guidelines were distributed and discussed as follows:

Question about what was meant by "providing structured feedback", especially if no votes will be taken. Answer: CCC is the structure for receiving information and providing forum for discussion. The group can work out in the future the best method for delivering their messages to the agencies. Intent is to have organized feedback provided through the Council.

Regarding who may observe meetings. Meetings are all open to all; there is no expectation that they will be closed to the public or press in the future.

Timeframe for Council existence. Not tied to any particular part of agreement – open ended.

Discussion about regular and substitute attendance. Agreement reached that members can have substitutes (notify MODR if substitution to be made), however they are responsible for keeping their constituencies informed so that any substitute is up to speed and able to engage in the CCC without slowing things down. Requested highlights of each meeting are sent to all. Members agreed to distribute highlights to their constituencies and keep them informed. Some discussion of sending highlights and agenda via e-mail. Agreed to look at this option again in the future.

Discussion on whether the public be allowed to speak during the first few minutes of each meeting. It was suggested that we see how meetings and communications go for a period of time before such an arrangement.

Desire to see the agreement between the City of Pittsfield and GE. Response was that all agreements were noted in the Summary of the Agreement Relating to GE's Pittsfield Facility and the Housatonic River, which was mailed out to all CCC members before the first meeting. The specifics are currently being worked out by all the parties and will be formalized in a Consent Decree. This will be distributed to the Council once it is ready.

Report on Source Control and Conceptual Work Plan: Andy Silfer made a Presentation on GE's reports on Source Control and the Conceptual Work Plan for the first ½ mile. Work plan should be ready for review by February CCC meeting. GE and EPA took questions on these two documents. Major questions and concerns were:

1. Desire for a broader look than only the ½ mile stretch of the river; look at source control all the way up to the landfill and around the Stop and Shop area.

The source control is one piece of the entire river project being undertaken. The river in its entirety is being looked at, especially river banks and sediments which would indicate if anything has reached the river at this time.

2. Concern from "south county" communities about post cleanup reappearance of downstream PCB's.

Sampling along the river is at 200 foot intervals all the way to Dalton in the sediment. This should be a good indicator if something is a current release, however cannot predict the future. Information will be available and completed before the first ½ mile work is completed.

Agencies are responding to information that has been gathered from the public and sampling efforts, where they take place, reflect the input.

3. Question about how things will look in the ½ mile after source control (sheet-piling).

Sheet-piling will be below gradient. While no one can guarantee what various riverfront property owners will do to limit access to the river, the sheet-piling itself will not be a detriment.

4. Concern expressed that the Newell Street side is still not being looked at closely.

As part of the agreement, additional sampling everywhere will happen in the appropriate sequence relative to the clean up activities. GE is dealing with issues that are most immediate first.

5. Concern that the oxbows have been rumored to contain barrels.
6. Concern that the activities in the first ½ mile rely on capping.

Remedy does not rely on capping. Plan includes significant amount of sediment and soil removal. Building 68 demonstrated that 0 PPM cleanup levels cannot be

achieved (some residual stays). Therefore, capping augments removal to ensure residual does not reach the surface.

7. There was a strong desire for a presentation on other rivers that have been capped and capping technology; why it is believed the cleanup chosen for this area will work.
8. Concern about contents of landfill. DEP is removing all that they find and trying to determine extent. Some members would like a report on the landfill (including methodology of research) to allay concerns.
9. Strong desire to provide input on Natural Resource Damage Restoration Plan. Council would like hear presentation on future workplan by Trustees.

Priority Setting – Agenda Development

It was determined that the first Wednesday of each month should be set aside for meetings at 5:30 p.m. The subject of holding meetings in other locations was deferred until a later time. It was also decided that a monthly calendar should be set with meeting times (2 hours) and dates for the next 12 months.

Other topics of interest for the future:

1. Presentation on PED A
2. Capping
3. Restoration / NRD issues and the future timeline and strategy
4. Information from banking industry regarding re-use of properties (loans etc. to contaminated property owners). Need to clarify what part of site cannot be used.
5. Allendale School
6. Presentation by DEP on landfill research.
7. Upstream sampling data (available in January 1999).

Next meeting: January 6 at 5:30 p.m. Subject: Presentation by Trustees on NRD Restoration – timelines and strategies.

Agencies will prepare for next meeting:

1. Member name plates.
2. Find health professional representative for CCC.
3. NRD presentation.
2. Worksheet for members to rank important issues and priorities in which to discuss them.
3. Tracking system for determining requests from council and agency response (who, what , when).
4. Updated draft of groundrules to consider.
5. Highlights from December 1998 meeting.
6. Proposed schedule of meetings for the next 12 months.